

To: Chairperson and Authority Members

Date: October 9, 2002

From: Mehdi Morshed, Executive Director

Subject: **Agenda Item 6 — Sacramento Area Council of Governments Presentation**

Discussion

The Sacramento Area Council of Governments (SACOG) is an association of local governments formed by six counties and 19 cities. SACOG coordinates transportation planning and funding for the entire Sacramento region.

The SACOG Board of Directors also directs the Capitol Valley Regional Service Authority for Freeways and Expressways (SAFE) and the Airport Land Use Commission (ALUC).

In recent years SACOG has been involved in everything from reviving the Rideshare program to implementing air quality improvement plans, but its main responsibilities can be grouped into the following five categories:

- **Planning:** Any major transportation projects in the region must be included in the SACOG Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) before it can move forward. SACOG updates this 20-year plan every three years to guide regional transportation investments. In addition to preparing a long-range plan, SACOG evaluates specific travel routes, weighs the relative merits of various travel options (new rail or roads, or upgrades to what is already in place), and then decides on the needed improvements.
- **Funding:** SACOG votes to allocate millions of dollars every year to fund mass transit, local streets and roads, highways, and bicycle and pedestrian routes in the region.
- **Coordinating:** SACOG devotes a lot of attention to keeping the region's transportation network humming along. They maintain liaisons and actively participate in 25 committees, commissions and organizations, such as: the Capitol Corridor Joint Powers Authority (CCJPA) that administers the Colfax-Sacramento-Oakland-San Jose rail service, the Rural Counties Task Force and the Cleaner Air Partnership.
- **Operating:** SACOG works with airports around the region to develop a program of airport improvement projects, in addition to fulfilling the role as the Airport Land Use Commission and drafting the Regional Aviation System Plan. To aid those in the region traveling on freeways and expressways, SACOG joined with San Joaquin County to form the Capitol Valley Regional Service Authority for Freeways and Expressways. SACOG — in partnership with the California Highway Patrol and the California Department of Transportation — oversees the installation and operation of call boxes along Sacramento regional freeways.

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- **Advocating:** Whether testifying in Washington or in Sacramento to garner funds for a Sacramento regional transportation project, or making a case for a change in policy to cut red tape, SACOG promotes Sacramento regional interests to state and federal governments. As the regional agency representing six Sacramento-area counties, SACOG is able to broker agreements among numerous local agencies. By presenting a unified front, the region is in a better position to win support from state and federal government for regional priorities.

Pete Hathaway, SACOG Deputy Executive Director Planning & Project Delivery will present an overview of the current and future transportation plans for the Sacramento area and discuss how they relate to the proposed high-speed rail system.